Letters of intent for chartering fishing trawlers

325. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not issuing letters of intent liberally for chartering foreign fishing trawlers despite the urgent need to increase country's export earnings; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Letters of intent for chartering of foreign fishing vessels are issued in accordance with the prevalent Charter policy under the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 and Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Rules 1982. In accordance with the provisions of the said Act, no permit for chartering is to be granted unless the Central Government is satisfied that the permit may be granted having regard to such matters as may be prescribed in the public interest and after making such inquiry in respect of such other matters as may be relevant.

Deep Sea fishing trawlers

326. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deep sea fishing trawlers operating in our marine waters;

(b) the number of chartered trawlers out of them;

(c) what is the foreign exchange earning from these trawlers, yearwise, details for the last three years.

(d) the number of applications pending with the Ministry for permission to acquire new trawlers; and

(e) since how long they are pending and what are the reasons for not clearing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The number of deep sea fishing trawlers in Indian water is 201 at present.

(b) As on 12-7-91 there are 31 chartered foreign fishing vessels operating in Indian waters.

(c) The foreign exchange earned from the chartered foreign fishing vessels during the last three years is indicated below:—

Year	US $ in lakhs
1988	8.05
1989	16.54
1990	28.57

(d) and (e) Seven applications for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels are pending with the Ministry at present. These are at various stages of processing and the clearances could not be given due to lack of certain information in their applications.

Knowledge of Regional Languages by persons in various A.I.R. and Doordarshan Kendras

327. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the persons working in various All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras in the country know the Regional languages concerned; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative whether it is not